

DaimlerChrysler AG

Patent claims

- 5 1. A vehicle occupant protection system (1) for a
motor vehicle having a vehicle seat (2) with
airbags (3) which are integrated into lateral
areas of a seating part and of a backrest, the air
pressure of the airbags (3) being adjustable by
10 means of a compressed air regulating device (4),
characterized in that a control unit (5) is
provided which evaluates the data (6) which is
relevant to the safety of the driving operation,
and times the actuation of the compressed air
15 regulating device (4) in such a way that at least
one airbag (3) of the vehicle seat (2) is inflated
before the occurrence of an anticipated accident.
- 20 2. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
claimed in claim 1, characterized in that all the
airbags (3) of the vehicle seat are inflated
before the occurrence of the anticipated accident.
- 25 3. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
claimed in claim 1, characterized in that only
those airbags (3) of the vehicle seat which are
relevant in terms of safety equipment for the
specific accident are inflated.
- 30 4. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least
one support element in the backrest and/or a
headrest has airbags (3) which are actuated by the
compressed air regulating device (4).
- 35 5. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air
pressure of the airbag (3) is set by means of the

compressed air regulating device (4) as a function of a vehicle occupant classification means (7) and/or a person identification means (8).

- 5 6. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
 claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air
 pressure of the airbag (3) is set by means of the
 compressed air regulating device (4) as a function
 of the specific accident.
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7. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
 claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the data
 (6) which is relevant to the safety of the driving
 operation comprises vehicle state variables,
15 ambient data and/or driver activities.
8. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
 claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the
 airbag (3) is deflated if the accident does not
20 occur.
9. The vehicle occupant protection system (1) as
 claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the
 control unit (5) also actuates a reversible seat
25 belt pretensioner (9) and activates it in good
 time before the anticipated accident.